

Respectfully submitted,

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SEPARATE SHEETS WITH MARKED-UP VERSION OF CLAIMS PER 37  
C.F.R § 1.121(c) (1) (ii)

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1 1. (AMENDED) An electronic still camera comprising:  
2 a plurality of [detection means]detectors which are  
3 provided respectively at different positions[, for  
4 detecting] and which detect contact or approach of a hand  
5 to make an image pickup operation;  
6 a mode setup [means for setting]unit which sets up a  
7 stand-by mode in which a predetermined power and/or driving  
8 pulse is supplied to an image pickup device, capable of  
9 commencing an image pickup operation immediately in  
10 response to a release instruction; and  
11 an image pickup [control means for  
12 executing]controller which controls a preliminary operation  
13 for image pickup if a first condition wherein the stand-by  
14 mode is set by the mode setup [means]unit and the image  
15 pickup operation is allowed to be commenced immediately in  
16 response to the release instruction, and a second condition  
17 wherein all of the plurality of [detection means]detectors  
18 detect the contact or approach, are both satisfied.

Claim 2 has been amended as follows:

1 2. (AMENDED) A camera according to claim 1, further  
2 comprising mode holding [means]unit using a non-volatile  
3 memory, [for holding]which holds a setup state of the  
4 stand-by mode set by the mode setup [means]unit even during  
5 a power-off period.

Claim 3 has been amended as follows:

1 3. (AMENDED) A camera according to claim 1, further  
2 comprising a mode release [means for releasing]unit which  
3 releases the stand-by mode when the stand-by mode is set by  
4 the mode setup [means]unit and a period in which at least  
5 one of the plurality of [detection means]detectors does not  
6 detect the contact or approach of a hand reaches a  
7 predetermined time.

Claim 4 has been amended as follows:

1  
1 4. (AMENDED) A camera according to claim 1, further  
2 comprising operation [control means for rendering]  
3 controller which renders a part of the plurality of  
4 [detection means]detectors operational, when the stand-by  
5 mode is set by the mode setup [means]unit and a period in  
6 which at least one of the plurality of [detection  
7 means]detectors does not detect the contact or approach of  
8 a hand reaches a predetermined time.

1 5. (AMENDED) A camera according to claim 1, wherein the  
2 plurality of [detection means]detectors are provided at  
3 least at a grip part and a release button part of a camera  
4 body.

1 7. (AMENDED) An electronic still camera comprising:  
2 [detection means]a detector which is provided near a  
3 release button[, for detecting] and detects contact or  
4 approach of a hand to make an image pickup operation;  
5 a main power switch [for switching]which switches on  
6 and off a power source of the camera; and

7        an image pickup [control means for  
8        executing]controller which executes a preliminary operation  
9        for image pickup if a first condition wherein the power  
10       switch is set on and a second condition wherein the  
11       [detection means]detector detects the contact or approach  
12       of a hand are both satisfied.

1    9. (AMENDED) An electronic still camera comprising:  
2       a plurality of [detection means]detectors which are  
3       provided respectively at different positions[, for  
4       detecting] and which detect contact or approach of a hand;  
5       a mode setup [means for setting]unit which sets up a  
6       stand-by mode in which a predetermined power and/or driving  
7       pulse is supplied to an image pickup device, capable of  
8       commencing an image pickup operation immediately in  
9       response to a release instruction; and  
10       an image pickup [control means for  
11       executing]controller which executes a preliminary operation  
12       for image pickup if a first condition wherein the stand-by  
13       mode is set by the mode setup [means]unit and the image  
14       pickup operation is allowed to be commenced immediately in  
15       response to the release instruction, and a second condition  
16       wherein at least one of the plurality of [detection  
17       means]detectors detects the contact or approach of a hand,  
18       are both satisfied.

1    10. (AMENDED) A method for controlling an electronic  
2       still camera, comprising [steps of]:  
3       detecting contact or approach of a hand to a camera  
4       body, by a plurality of [detection means]detectors provided  
5       respectively at different positions;

6 bringing an image pickup system including at least an  
7 image pickup device into a stand-by state in which the  
8 image pickup system commences an image pickup operation  
9 immediately in response to a release instruction; and  
10 executing a preliminary operation for image pickup if  
11 a first condition wherein the image pickup system is in the  
12 stand-by state and [at least one of the plurality of  
13 detection means detects the contact or approach of the  
14 hand]the image pickup operation is allowed to be commenced  
15 immediately in response to the release instruction, and a  
16 second condition wherein all the plurality of detectors  
17 detect the contact or approach of a hand, are both  
18 satisfied.

1 11. (AMENDED) A method according to claim 10, wherein the  
2 preliminary operation is executed if all the plurality of  
3 [detection means]detectors detect the contact or approach  
4 of a hand.

1 12. (AMENDED) A method according to claim 11, wherein [in  
2 the step of]when detecting, if the image pickup system is  
3 in the stand-by state and a part of the plurality of  
4 [detection means]detectors detects the contact or approach  
5 of [the]a hand to make an image pickup operation, another  
6 part of the plurality of [detection means]detectors starts  
7 a detection operation.

1 13. (AMENDED) A method according to claim 10, wherein the  
2 plurality of [detection means]detectors are provided at  
3 least at a grip part and a release button part of a camera  
4 body.

1 14. (AMENDED) A method according to claim 10, further  
2 comprising [a step of] writing a setup of the image pickup  
3 system in the stand-by state into a non-volatile memory if  
4 an input for turning off a power source is given.

1 15. (AMENDED) A method according to claim 10, further  
2 comprising [a step of] releasing the stand-by state when  
3 the stand-by state is set and a period in which at least  
4 one of the plurality of [detection means]detectors does not  
5 detect the contact or approach of [the]a hand reaches a  
6 predetermined time.

1 18. (AMENDED) A method for controlling an electronic  
2 still camera, comprising [steps of]:  
3 detecting contact or approach of a hand by [detection  
4 means]a detector provided near a release button;  
5 switching on and off a main power source of the  
6 camera; and  
7 executing a preliminary operation for image pickup if  
8 [the main power source is on and the plurality of detection  
9 means detects the contact or approach of the hand]a first  
10 condition wherein the power switch is set on and a second  
11 condition wherein the detector detects the contact or  
12 approach of a hand are both satisfied.